that London should be surveyed out of the public money if other towns had not been.

Viscount Ebrington said, that the expense of the surveys of provincial towns had never come before the country in any way, because the surveys had been taken as a whole. He knew that levels were laid down in the Ordnance surveys not only of the towns, but of the whole country of Ireland. Their map of Dublin was the most beautiful and minute work of art of the kind ever seen: the lamp-posts, the door-steps, the trees, and pattern of every garden being laid down with the utmost precision. There could be no doubt that many towns did enjoy the benefit at the public expense of maps containing all this minute information, and the question was whether, if they did not want more than other places, they should receive less.

Correspondence.

POROUS BRICKS.

SIR,—Having lately suffered extremely from moisture penetrating external walls above the level of the ground, owing to the porous nature of the bricks in this locality, I beg leave, through the medium of your valuable journal, to solicit a reply from some of your many practical readers, how I am effectually to prevent the same, either by external or internal application.

A CONSTANT READER.

Southampton.

Miscellanea.

DUTY ON BRICKS.—The total amount of duty paid on bricks, in the several Excise collections in England for the year 1846, amounted to 625,507*l.* 4s. 8d., 591,817*l.* 2s. of which was collected in the country, and 33,690*l.* 2s. 8d. in London. The total amount of duty collected in 1847 amounted to 672,781*l.* 1s. 3d. Of this sum 637,898*l.* 10s. was collected in the country, and 34,992*l.* 11s. 3d. in London.

THE USE OF THE TRIFORIUM IN MODERN CHURCHES.—A correspondent suggests that the triforium might be used for lighting churches after dark. He says:—"Each lesser division of the triforium might be filled with stained or embossed glass, and a gas-burner, with a reflector, placed behind each. The following advantages would be gained by this arrangement. 1. The position these lights would occupy commands the whole nave, with the opposite side of the church. 2. Being entirely away from any of the windows, no light would be wasted, as is usually the case. 3. Unsightly gas-pipes and lamps would be avoided. 4. We should enjoy the beauties of stained-glass as well in the evening as in the morning."—W. S.

SMOKY CHIMNEYS.—Sir;—Your correspondent "Thomas Thom," says that he "need not point out the absurdity" of having the smallest end of a flue downwards: and you most justly observe that "the absurdity of this is not so certain as he thinks." Mr. Thom may refer to "Tredgold on Warming and Ventilating," third edition, p. 231, as an authority in his favour, where the author strenuously, but most erroneously, insists on the necessity of not contracting the throat of a flue. He says, "it is like contracting the *aperture* of a pipe which supplies a jet." Now there is a curious fact with respect to jets of water with which Tredgold was not acquainted. If there be two cisterns of equal size, and in the bottom of each there be an orifice of the same diameter, and from one of those orifices there be a pipe of the same diameter throughout as the orifice, and from the other a pipe increasing in diameter, the cistern having the discharge pipe with the increasing diameter will be emptied through its conical pipe more rapidly than the other through its cylindrical pipe. The case will be the same with smoke or any other fluid. I should be glad to hear from Mr. Thom, or any other of your correspondents, how this is to be accounted for. If Mr. Thom wished to be satisfied that one of the best modes for curing a smoky chimney is to make its upper opening larger than its throat, he may inquire at the Bank of England, where he can ascertain how one of its late governors, by enlarging the upper part of the flue, cured the smoking of a chimney which had baffled all the endeavours of the chimney doctors.—I am, Sir, &c. N. R.

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by the 14th inst., for the erection of a new military prison at Forton Gosport; by 1st May, for the erection of the church and parsonage-house at Prestwood, Bucks; by same time, for works at the Bedford County Prisons; by 14th inst., for building a ward at the West Ham Union Workhouse; by 20th, for the rebuilding of the parish church at Rockcliff, near Carlisle; by 12th, for the various works to be done in the erection of a villa at Addingham, near Ilkley; by 15th, for the formation of a wharf wall at Grangemouth, 633 feet long, and 22½ feet high; by 11th, for building sewers in Cripplegate; and, by same time, for taking up and removing foot and carriage-way pavements in Limehouse causeway.

CHURCH OF SANTA CROCE.—The fame of this ancient church, writes a correspondent of the *Athenæum*, has increased as time—the test of artistic excellence—has rolled on, establishing the merit of its works of art, as well as the fame of the illustrious dead whose ashes repose within its precincts, and whose works still live to stimulate our efforts and direct our energies to high attainments. On entering the temple—rendered doubly solemn by the associations that crowd upon the mind—stands the sarcophagus of the giant-minded Buonarotti—great in architecture, great in sculpture, great in painting. His frescoes are our most stupendous examples, and in his three-fold capacity he has added to the fame of the Eternal City. The sister arts, lamenting his loss, are well placed at his tomb: for upon each of them he has stamped a sublimity that will ever attest the altitude of his genius. Here sleeps the profound Galileo—no more the object of persecution, condemned to the dungeon cell. Then, from the chisel of Canova we have a personification of Italy weeping over one whose memory is dear to Italians of the present day—"Il Principe della Tragedia"—Alfieri. We next come to a monument of a worthless period of art, erected to the instructor of princes, Macchiavelli; and here, unregarded and without a stone to mark the spot, lie the ashes of Lorenzo Ghiberti, whose splendid doors bear testimony to his genius, though no epitaph records it. In works of the "Renaissance" Santa Croce affords many beautiful examples, though valuable specimens have been wilfully destroyed or hidden under whitewash, the traces of figures and the *relievi* of glories being still obvious through the ignoble covering. Four chapels of the transept were painted by Giotto, but afterwards defaced with distemper. The late Cav. Peruzzi had this removed from one of the sides of the family *capella*, and brought to light the only fresco that is now visible.

CITY OF LONDON UNION.—BLIND BUILDERS.—We have received the following list of the tenders delivered on Monday last, for the erection of the "City of London Union," at the office of Mr. Richard Tress. The quantities, according to our informant, were supplied by Mr. Eppy and Mr. Hunt:—

Diggle	£73,957
Smith	51,961
Pollock	49,938
Jackson	49,464
Hicks	47,770
Higgs and Son	46,415
Locke and Nesham	46,200
Pearce and Guerrier	46,200
Patrick	46,100
Trego	45,944
Lawrence	45,637
Carter	45,500
Knight and Sons	45,500
Cooper and Davies	45,334
Jay	44,736
Wilson	44,699
Pritchard	44,533
Taylor	44,500
Norris	43,970
Rider	43,800
Wilson	41,890
Piper	41,314
Livermore	41,115
Higgs	40,980
Hills	40,931
I'Anson	40,384
Nicholson	39,940
Curtis	38,884
Crook	37,883
Glenn	35,275
Hawtrey	33,100

We have not time for comment at this moment; and, in truth, it is little needed.

COMPETITION.—Plans, elevations, and sections, are wanted for the Marylebone Baths and Washhouses, subject to the restrictions intimated in advertisement.

THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY OF OPERATIVE CARPENTERS met on Wednesday evening, 29th March, with their wives and friends, to tea socially. The secretary read a report, which stated that the energies of the society had been directed towards fitting up their premises, which enabled them to employ most of their unemployed members, and that the executive were then engaged in establishing classes for instruction in connection with the trade, hoping by these means to turn to good account the few spare hours of the building operatives. Several members of the society urged the necessity of self-improvement and self-control.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, March 28th.—The paper read was "The Engineering of the Rhine and the Moselle," by Mr. G. B. W. Jackson. This communication was written during a short visit made to Holland for the purpose of inspecting personally the works with which the author had become familiar in the writings of Beaudemoulin, Vanden Bergh, Defontaines, Hibbert, Krayenhoff, Ockhart, and Wiebeking. The ancient works, as far back as the time of the Romans, were briefly described, and descriptions given of the modes of straightening the bed of the river, and of constructing the dams, weirs, division arms, spurs, and shoreworks, and the method of blasting the rocks, which latter considerably impeded the course of the stream.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE-ROOMS IN THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.—These rooms are, perhaps, in their present state, scarcely open to criticism; but we may as well, while they are incomplete, suggest that, in finishing them, attention should be paid to rendering them well adapted for the auditory which they will often contain. At present, with bare, hard walls, the reverberation of sound in them often renders the loudest and clearest speakers inaudible.

BELGIUM.—The King has commanded the restoration of the Palace at Antwerp, and that as many workmen as possible shall be employed on it. Several other public works are also to be commenced immediately, among which is the Quay of St. Michael.

[Advertisement.]

CITY OF LONDON UNION.

MR. EDITOR,—Finding you are in possession of the list of public tenders, and insert them in your columns, I have no doubt that your attention will be called to the above estimates, which appear to be erroneous, and particularly so, when the lowest amount is nearest to the architect's estimate; consequently, the lowest tender was at once accepted, upon condition of that gentleman giving increased security to the amount of 1,000*l.*, which he refused to do. The guardians considered themselves entitled to ask for this further security, and upon Mr. Hawtrey not complying, rejected his tender. The next, as a matter of course, was then inquired after, and the same demand was made upon him, which he readily acceded to—and a larger amount, if necessary—and gave very satisfactory proof of his ability to execute the work, and is well known as a respectable builder, and named the gentlemen for his securities, which could not be doubted *in the city of London*; but after a long discussion between the committee, Messrs. Curtis', of Stratford, tender was accepted. How is this? Messrs. Crook and Son are next on the list, and all those gentlemen increasing on the amount of the architect's estimate. I should like to know how far guardians are justified in using the funds to serve their friends; there being 3,609*l.* between Mr. Glenn and Messrs. Curtis, and 2,175*l.* between Mr. Glenn and Mr. Hawtrey, whose tender was accepted, had that gentleman acceded to the wish of the Board,—thus making an amount of 5,784*l.* above the lowest tender, which is rejected on the ground of 1,000*l.* being required for further security. There does appear a mystery that requires explanation; and, for our safety, I hope it will not be refused through the medium of your valuable journal.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

April 7, 1848. A GUARDIAN.

[Advertisement.]

MR. EDITOR,—Knowing that your columns are at all times open to make right any evil that an individual or public body may fall into, allow me, through the medium of your various correspondents, to ask *why* the guardians of the City of London Union rejected my tender for the erection of their new workhouse? I have no doubt you will be in-

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